

Community United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation A Peace with Justice Church
June 26th, 2022 10:30 a.m.
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRELUDE *Burn Your Life Down* by Tegan and Sara,
Performed by Alaina de Bellevue

WELCOME and GATHERING WORDS Andy Young, Worship Leader

MUSICAL MEDITATION *God Is Here Today*, arr. by C. Michael Hawn and
Arturo González, Performed by the CUCC Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Adapted from CUCC's Updated ONA Statement, 1/2022*)

One: At Community United Church of Christ, you are loved. Others may think you are not worthy of that love, but God put you here as you are.
All: While others claiming to be people of faith have told us that how we identify or that whom we love makes us a sinner, or an affront to God, we at Community United Church of Christ unwaveringly believe that God loves each of us just as we are!

One: God's love is why we are open and affirming!

All: As an Open and Affirming congregation, Community United Church of Christ, we welcome all individuals: lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual, queer or questioning, cisgender, asexual, pansexual, transgender, intersex, binary, non-binary, gender fluid, gender-queer, bigender, grayscale, cross dressers, third-gender, and sexual and gender identities yet to be known, named or belonging to other cultures.

One: God's love is why we are open and affirming!

All: We welcome all families: single parents, single people, couples, nuclear and blended families, families without children, *extended and chosen families, polyamorous families, and families yet to be known or named.*

One: God's love is why we are open and affirming!

All: We welcome all questions: questions about gender, questions about sexuality, questions about identity and how identity influences our lives and communities. We welcome questions about the families we have and want, questions about what family means and how we create family.

One: God's love is why we are open and affirming!

All: No matter who you or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

OPENING SONG *Help Us Accept Each Other*, NCH #388

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION *Adapted from Jordan Sullivan, United Church of Canada*

Oh, Love that will not let us go...Our hearts are filled and overflowing with joy, deep love, and gratitude. We are thankful, for the gifts of all Open and Affirming Ministries and communities of faith who open their churches, their homes and their hearts to LGBTQ+ people and all their intersecting identities. We are thankful for the Love that will not let us go.

We are thankful, for Pride Marches and Pride Month, for all those who publicly, intentionally, and explicitly affirm that LGBTQ+ people are children of God. We are thankful for the blessing of a Love that is and always has been there for us. We lament that LGBTQ+ people must hide and fear for their lives in many places. We pray for all hearts and minds to be open to our own homophobia, transphobia, racism, sexism, ableism, sizeism, and all the ways we fear those who are different from us. We pray to learn how to recognize the kinship between our souls and the souls of those who, to us, are strangers so that the circle can continue to be made wider and all are truly welcomed in the fullness of who they are. We pray that we will never cease in our journey to learn how to Love more radically. Amen

CHORAL ANTHEM *The Gift of Love* — Arr. Hal Hopson

READINGS Psalm 16 and *On speaking queerly in public* by M Barclay

SHARED REFLECTIONS Rev. Jackie and Rev. Nicole

COMMUNAL SILENCE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Jackie

WORLD PEACE PRAYER *Adapted from the Upanishads*

Oh God, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth. Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe. Peace, peace, peace.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Your Song* by Elton John

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

We give you but your own, what – e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

CHILDREN ENTER

Join in singing *We are Marching in the Light of God*, NCH #526

STORY FOR ALL AGES Rev. Nicole

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Loving God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

CLOSING SONG *In the Midst of New Dimensions*, NCH #391

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG *God Be With You*, NCH #809